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DE RUEHML #0823 0940835
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 030835Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0296
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MANILA 000823

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/RSP, G, IO/RHS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KDEM PGOV PHUM PREL RP
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINES WEIGHING NEXT STEPS ON ASIA PACIFIC
DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

REF: A. STATE 28071- (APDP NON-PAPER FOR CIRCULATION)

- 1B. 07 MANILA 3620- (PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PLEASED
TO ATTEND APDP)
- 1C. 07 STATE 151024- (ADVANCING THE DEMOCRACY AGENDA)
- 1D. 07 MANILA 3564- (FOREIGN MINISTER WELCOMES APDP
PROPOSAL)

11. (SBU) The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs reviewed with great interest the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP) non-paper (ref A). Acting Assistant Secretary for American Affairs Lourdes Yparraguirre shared a

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positive assessment of the preliminary working document during an April 2 meeting with Polcouns. Yparraguirre, who is also serving as Acting Executive Director of the U.S. Division, thanked the U.S. for encouraging action and boosting the initiative in a region where the Philippines would welcome more fully democratic neighbors. She added, echoing comments reported in ref B, that the Philippine government supports the mission of the APDP but lacks resources to host meetings and staff to plan them. This shortcoming will be exacerbated, Yparraguirre noted, by the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be hosted here October 2008 and the Non-Aligned Movement Non-Ministerial Meeting on interfaith issues slated for July 2009. She said that the Philippines remains open to the timing and location of next APDP meeting, and asked about the number and size of delegations that might attend the next APDP meeting. Yparraguirre pledged to discuss with senior leadership in the DFA the extent of Philippine involvement in the proposed meeting.

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